

January 23, 1976

SENATOR SAVAGE: Yes, go ahead.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Kremer and Senator Dworak worked out an arrangement here that solves that problem. Senator Dworak deserves to be commended for taking a bill that has very bad effects on the future of the state and making it somewhat better. Please be aware of the fact that he's in a very difficult situation. He's got a class six district, near Columbus, facing the same sort of problems that Senator Kremer is now having, Senator Kelly is having in the Grand Island area. He's worked out a compromise and he deserves to be commended for that. However, the bill is still a very bad one. The reason it's bad is this, you're still permitting the possibility for the fragmentation of a municipality ... more municipalities in the state into several school districts.

I know that you've rejected my amendment which would have enabled them to have half the cake and still protect, I think, the legitimate interest of municipal school districts in the state and keep us from facing future problems in this Legislature dealing with the situation like we have now in Bellevue, which was so ably pointed out by Senator Lewis.

I don't think there's any kind of sufficient support to kill the bill. I'm not so sure there's sufficient support to move the bill either. Perhaps we'll have to go back to some sort of compromise which permits the class six districts to maintain ownership of their buildings, even though they're part of a municipality in the future, but avoids fragmenting municipalities into numerous school districts.

I would hope that you vote against the bill as now amended to protect the interest of the state in the future and to avoid future problems.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise to discuss LB 383 from the point of the citizens of Grand Island. The Grand Island area is the focal point on this bill. There are, very definitely, two points of view. As a representative from the 35th District, which is contained entirely in the City of Grand Island except for three precincts, I will be supporting the City of Grand Island's position which would be to oppose LB 383.

I want to tell you a little bit about what's happened out there. Some 12 or 15 years ago the Legislature moved around with the tuition requirements that schools could charge students coming into the city class three schools. At that time, unwisely in my opinion, the Grand Island School Board elected and notified the rural children in central Nebraska that, come September, they would not be taken into the Grand Island school system. You just plain, simply don't do that to farmers, that's all there is to it.